

an avalanche on September 19. The Korean victims were Lee Sang-Gu and Lee Seok-Jee; the Sherpas were Dawa Sange, Norbu Jangbu, Lhakpa Tendi and Tenzing. Their Camp IV at 7500 meters was swept down the mountain. Two other Sherpas were carried down by the avalanche but managed to survive. One of them broke a leg and the other escaped with bruises. As they fell, Jin Ang-Sung was observing them with binoculars from Camp I at 5050 meters. Others in Camp III at 6900 meters knew nothing about it until a surviving Sherpa came down to report the accident. Yul Bae-Sung, who was at Camp III, rushed to the site but found only five bodies. The body of one Sherpa could not be traced. They were given a snow burial. The victims had hoped to make a summit bid the next day.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Editor, Himavanta, India*

*Annapurna Attempt.* Our group of ten Americans, mostly professional mountain guides, attempted to climb the north face of Annapurna by the Dutch Rib. We arrived at Base Camp on August 28, finding a large Korean expedition already at Camp I. We caught up with the Koreans' Sherpas along the rib and shared the work of trail breaking and rope fixing with them up to 7300 meters. Large avalanches poured down the mountain throughout our climb, destroying Korean Camps I, II and III at various times. Bill Crouse and we two occupied our Camp IV at 7325 meters on September 18. The next was to be a rest day prior to a summit attempt on September 20. All the technical climbing was below and our camp was at the final sérac barrier. At midday, six Sherpas and two Koreans passed our camp. The Sherpas were worried because the Koreans were forcing them to camp at 7500 meters, where there was no avalanche protection. Two hours later, a large avalanche roared over Camp IV, partially burying our tents. It also carried four Sherpas and two Koreans down. Five of them flushed out at 6275-meter Camp III, all to die within 20 minutes of internal injuries. One Sherpa was never found. We descended, helping the two survivors down and burying the dead. Five days later, Paul Valiulis, Ron Johnson and we two reascended to Camp III to find more new, unstable snow and constant winds. We retreated.

JULIE AND MATT CULBERSON

*Annapurna, Northwest Buttress Attempt.* An expedition of six Austrians was led by Hubert Fritzenwallner. On October 13, they reached a high point of 6120 meters on the northwest buttress.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Annapurna North Face, Ascent and Attempts, Post-Monsoon.* A Russian expedition was led by Alexander Glushkovski. They climbed the Dutch Rib on the north face. On October 24, Sergei Arsentiev and Nikolai Cherny reached the

summit. Two other groups were unable to get to the top. Spaniards led by Albino Quinteiro reached 6300 meters on September 19. Japanese under the leadership of Masaru Otani got to 6450 meters on October 1.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Annapurna, West Face Solo Attempt.* From October 28 to 31, I climbed a new route on the west face of Annapurna solo alpine-style but did not ascend to the summit. I got to Base Camp at 4300 meters on October 19 and bivouacked at the foot of the west face at 5150 meters on October 27. I followed the 1985 Messner route to 6000 meters and after that climbed a new route to the left of his. After a bivouac at 6200 meters on the upper plateau, I climbed 70° ice and experienced some rockfall. I bivouacked again at 6900 meters after reaching a snow ridge. On the 30th, I worked left onto a safer part of the face. I climbed to 7300 meters, where I had to halt for two hours because of the wind. I then continued up snow-covered rock to 7800 meters where I bivouacked in what was left of my tent. On October 31, I got to 7900 meters near to the normal route but was forced back by the wind to bivouac again at 7800 meters. On November 1, I traversed the north face and descended the normal route and bivouacked at the site of Camp I. I was back in Base Camp on November 2. This had been packed up by my Base-Camp staff, who thought I had not survived, but I managed to walk down to a village on two frost-bitten toes.

SLAVC SVETIČIČ, *Planinska zveza Slovenije*

*Annapurna, South Face Ascent and Tragedy.* The 13th ill-fated climber in Nepal in the post-monsoon season was a Belgian, who died in the season's most dramatic death, having disappeared with no final trace. Gabriel Denamur was a member of one of two international expeditions led by Poles on the Bonington route on the south face of Annapurna. His team was led by Mieczysław Jarosz. Denamur and a Polish teammate, Kazimierz Stępień who climbed without Sherpas or artificial oxygen, planned to go to the summit together from the last camp, Camp III at 7300 meters and made an abortive attempt on October 19. The next morning, Denamur started up alone, and he was never seen again. Stępień began his own ascent at noon on the 20th and did not see Denamur at any time. He lost the trail, darkness fell and he bivouacked at 7700 meters in the hope of climbing the rest of the way on the 21st. However, he had to descend because he was beginning to suffer from high-altitude sickness. He was met that morning by the leader of the other expedition, Krzysztof Wielicki, who was on his way to the summit. Wielicki found a line of fresh footprints on the snow ahead of him leading all the way to the top—and down the other side, the north face. He saw no other trace of Denamur, nor did members of his team who followed him to the summit on October 22 and 23. Jarosz hoped that other climbers on the north face would help Denamur and did not send out a search team. His expedition's food supplies were running low and they mounted no further summit attempts. Some